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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/805,039	03/14/2001	Kazuhiro Kobayashi	204663US2	1665

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EXAMINER

HOANG, QUOC DINH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2818

DATE MAILED: 05.08.2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/805,039

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Quoc D Hoang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of claims 1-5 in Paper No. 10 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that see the election/restriction paper. This is not found persuasive because, for example, a gate line structure in claim 1 (Fig. 2a) does not comprise a transparent conductive layer (Fig. 29a) in claim 11.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 2 recites the limitation " the source electrode " in line 2, page 76. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior art, in view of Hong et al, (US Pat 6,429,057).

Regarding claims 1-5, Applicants' Admitted Prior art., teaches a thin film transistor array substrate comprising: an insulating substrate (page 3, lines 15-25 and Fig. 57); a gate line 51 formed on said insulating substrate (page 3, lines 15-25 and Fig. 57); a gate insulating film 52 provided on said gate line 51 (page 4, lines 1-8 and Fig. 57); a semiconductor layer 53 provided on said gate insulating film 52 (page 4, lines 1-8 and Fig. 57); a source line 55, a source electrode 56 and a drain electrode 57 provided on said semiconductor layer 53 (page 4, lines 8-15 and Fig. 57); an inter-layer insulating film 59 formed on said source line 55, a source electrode 56 and a drain electrode 57 (page 4, lines 8-15 and Fig. 57); a pixel electrode 61 formed on said inter-layer insulating film 59; wherein said inter-layer insulating film 59 is provided with a first contact hole, a second contact hole and a third contact hole, said first contact hole penetrating said inter-layer insulating film to reach said drain electrode 57, said second contact hole extending to said source line 55 through said inter-layer insulating film 59, said third contact hole extending to said gate line 51 through said gate insulating film and said inter-layer insulating film; and wherein said first contact hole, said second contact hole and said third contact hole are covered with a pattern made of a material of said pixel electrode (page 4, lines 8-15 and Fig. 57).

Applicants' Admitted Prior art., do not expressly teach the source electrode and the drain electrode are surrounded by the semiconductor layer.

Hong et al., teach the source electrode 65 and the drain electrode 66 are surrounded by the semiconductor layer 42 (col. 11, lines 1-40 and Fig. 4). At the time of the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the

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art to combine the source/drain electrode teaching of Hong et al with Applicants' Admitted Prior art, because it would have reduced number of photolithography steps as taught by Hong et al, column 1, lines 64-67.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quoc Hoang whose telephone number is (703) 306-5795. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8.00 AM to 5.00 PM.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms., can be reached on (703) 308-4910.

Quoc Hoang 
Patent examiner/AU 2818.


HOAI HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER